

Africa Weather Hazards Assessment

for

June 8 - 14, 2006

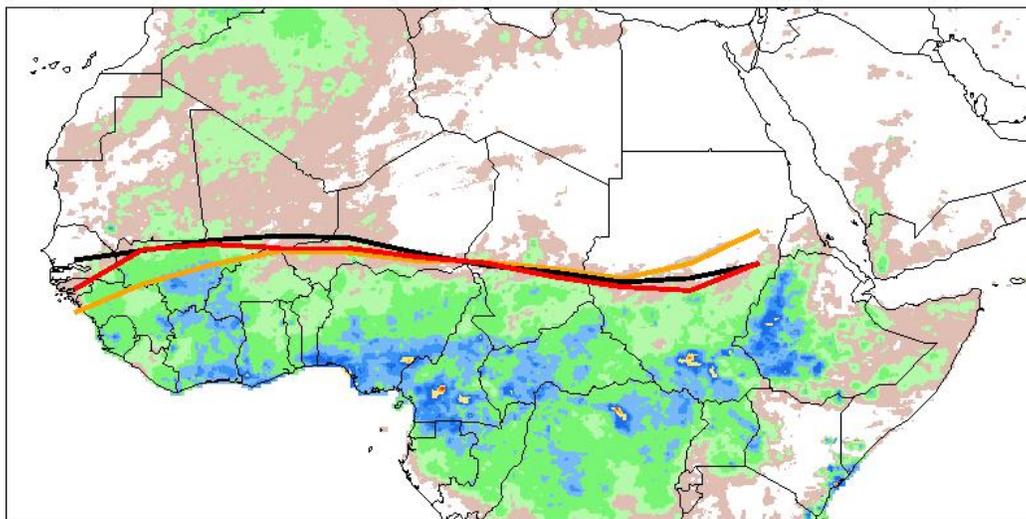
Weekly Introduction:

ITCZ Update

During the period from May 21-31, 2006, the African portion of the Intertropical Convergence Zone was located near 13.6 degrees north latitude when averaged from 15W-35E. This compares to the normal location of 14.2N, and a position during the previous dekad of 13.5N. Areas to the west of Nigeria as well as to the east, are experiencing close to normal ITCZ position values when compared to the climatological mean. The current position has taken a jump to the north (figure) along the western half of Africa and has dipped to the south along the eastern half of Africa when compared to the previous dekadal analysis. This ITCZ movement corresponds well with the accumulated dekadal rainfall.

Additional information can be found at the web site:
<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/fews/ITCZ/itcz.shtml>.

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center May 2006 Dekad 3



Accumulated Dekadal Precipitation:

<1	10-25	50-75	100-150	200-250
1-10	25-50	75-100	150-200	>250 mm

	Current 10-Day Average
	Mean 10-Day Average
	Previous 10-Day Average



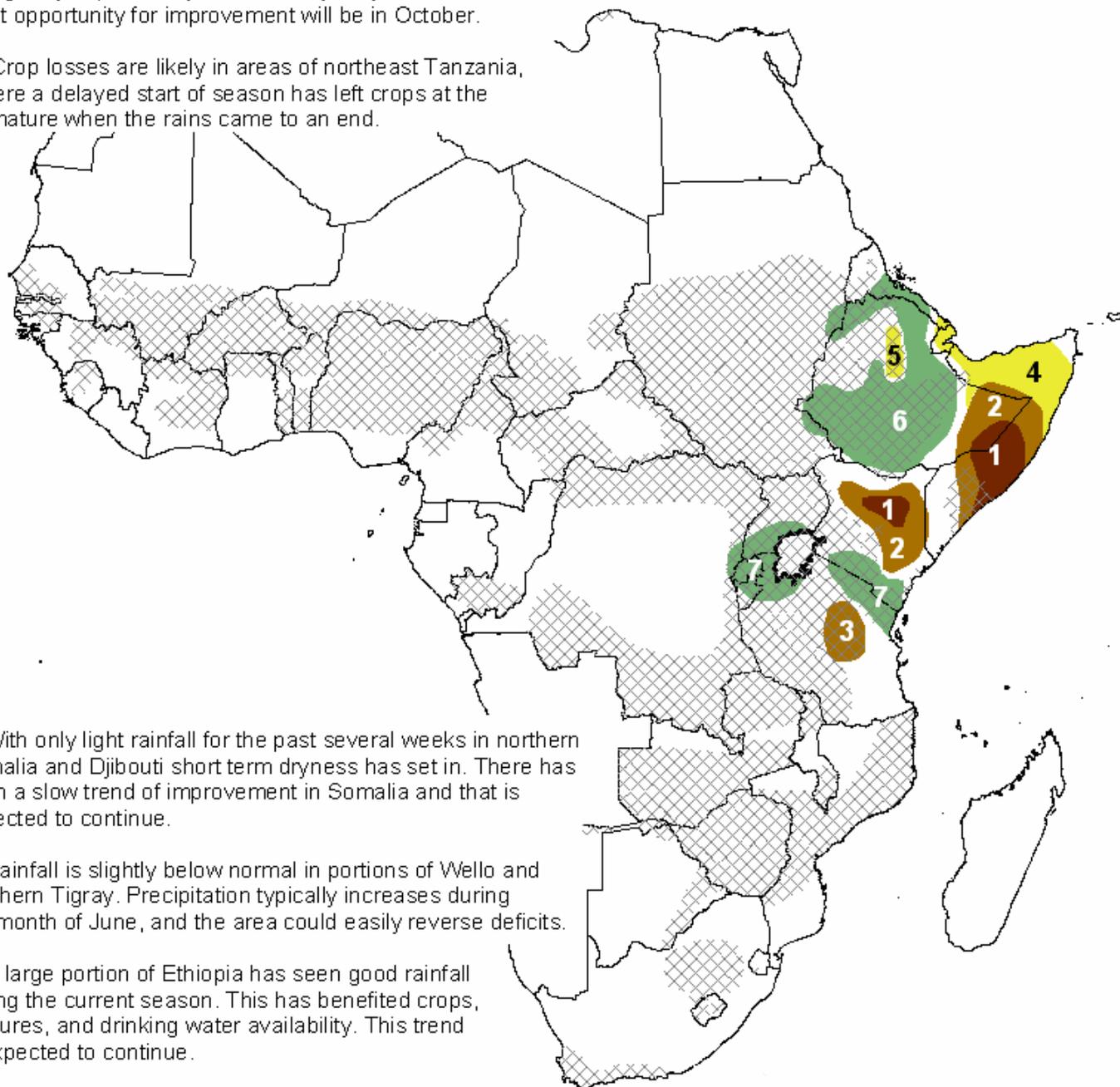
Africa Weather Hazards/Benefits Assessment

1) Drought conditions persist in central Kenya and central Somalia. The opportunity for significant rainfall has passed. There remains a slight chance that isolated rains may improve conditions in some local areas.

NOTE: Black hatched regions depict combined wheat, maize, sorghum, and millet crop zones which are active (sowing to harvest) during the current month. (from FAO)

2) A poor June-September 2005 season was only marginally improved by the February-May 2006 rains. The next opportunity for improvement will be in October.

3) Crop losses are likely in areas of northeast Tanzania, where a delayed start of season has left crops at the immature when the rains came to an end.



4) With only light rainfall for the past several weeks in northern Somalia and Djibouti short term dryness has set in. There has been a slow trend of improvement in Somalia and that is expected to continue.

5) Rainfall is slightly below normal in portions of Wello and southern Tigray. Precipitation typically increases during the month of June, and the area could easily reverse deficits.

6) A large portion of Ethiopia has seen good rainfall during the current season. This has benefited crops, pastures, and drinking water availability. This trend is expected to continue.

7) Along the Kenya-Tanzania coast, as well as the area to the west of Lake Victoria, steady rainfall has provided good growing conditions.

Weather Hazards Text Explanation:

1. The failure of the 2005 short rainy season, and the subsequent poor 2006 wet season has left central Kenya and central Somalia in a severe drought. Despite some rain, and even local flooding in Somalia, water resources continue to be stretched thin. Both pastures and crops were negatively impacted throughout the area as moisture deficits increased. Currently in Kenya, seasonally dry conditions have set in. Somalia during the last week did receive as much as 15 mm in the affected region. Seasonably dry conditions are expected during the coming week. The next hope for significant relief will be in October when the rains return to the area.
2. A terrible 2005 wet season affected a large portion of the Horn. The impacts of the lack of moisture are still being felt across portions of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. Dry conditions have reduced available pasture, devastated crops and reduced available drinking water. These conditions are expected to persist as the dry season has set in across most of the region. Parts of Somalia and Ethiopia, however have received some unusual showers during the past week that have helped improve pastures and increased available drinking water. This rainfall has not been enough to reverse the longer term damage. The next hope for large scale relief will be with the start of the next wet season in October.
3. A delayed start of season has delayed crop growth in northeastern Tanzania. Although some areas were able to catch up to normal, other areas could not. When the season ended on time, the crops that had not caught up were devastated. As a result of the nature of the conditions, some areas within the polygon have had a reasonable harvest, while other areas have had a poor one.
4. In northern Somalia, including the Sool and Sanaag regions stretching into Djibouti, rainfall has been lighter than normal. Despite this, the little bit of rain that has fallen has been well distributed, possibly reducing the negative impacts of the below normal rains. The coming week will not offer relief as conditions will likely be dry.
5. In the Ethiopian zones of South Tigray, North Wello and South Wello, minor rainfall deficits have resulted in short term dryness. These deficits could have an impact on agriculture if they continue to rise. Heavier rainfall normally moves into this area during late June or early July. The dry conditions observed last week are expected to continue into the coming period.
6. With percent of normals in most of Ethiopia and Eretria running between 120 and 400 percent, conditions are better than average. As is normal during this time of year, rain has been the heaviest over the western and southern highlands of Ethiopia. The above normal rainfall has provided abundant drinking water, as well as good crop and pasture conditions. These conditions are expected to continue into the coming week.
7. Steady rainfall west and southwest of Lake Victoria and along the Kenya-Tanzania border has allowed for excellent crop and pasture conditions. This is especially true for the area west and southwest of Lake Victoria. Drinking water levels are normal. The areas wet season is coming to a close, and seasonably dry conditions have moved into most area's.

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